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TEACHING ELEPHANTS.

The Tall, Fat Legged, Small Eyed Kind
the Best Pupils.

On a number of points all elephant trainers agree, says Appleton's Magazine. These are, first, that the tall, fat legged, small eyed elephant of big girth is not only the handsomest, but also the most docile and intelligent of his kind; second, that an elephant is fully aware of his prodigious strength compared with man's and that the reason an elephant obeys his master is not because he is afraid of him, but because he has an affection for him; third, you may beat a bad elephant to death or kill him by ramming red hot irons down his throat in an effort to press the "squeal of surrender" out of him, but the one and only way to train an elephant to perform tricks is through kindness and patience unending; last, but not least, without exception the intelligence of the elephant far exceeds that of any other animal. Elephant trainers maintain that training an elephant to perform is like teaching a boy circus riding, only less difficult.

A number of the simpler tricks with which an elephant entertains his audience come as natural to him as the lapping of milk comes to a cat—for instance, the blowing of the mouth harmonica.

Twenty feet to the right or to the left of the candidate to be taught to lie down four heavy stakes are driven into the ground, and from each of these runs a block and tackle connecting with each leg and manned by ten or a dozen men. When all is ready the trainer stands in front of the animal, raises his hook and "Down! Down!" he orders. The elephant pays no attention. He stands waving his trunk and swaying his body from side to side. "Down! Down!" shouts the trainer again, and upon a signal some forty men begin to heave and tug, the blocks squeak, the ropes creak, and while the trainer continues shouting his command the pachyderm's legs begin to be drawn from under him. With a scalp raising trumpet, the startled creature begins to struggle, lashing with his trunk from side to side and groping with its tip against the floor, frantically seeking for a hold to steady himself, but the relentless ropes continue to draw his legs. The huge beast leans at a forbidding angle, bellowing like a herd of steers and drowning the "Down! Down!" of the trainer. The great body begins to totter. For an instant it regains its balance; then it falls, crashing with a dull thud on to the bed of straw. Trumpeting like the screech out of a cracked steam callopie, the brute tries vainly to struggle to his feet, until at the end of three or four minutes he begins to realize that nothing so very startling has happened and that really he ought to feel very comfortable indeed.

To teach him to stand on his head the trainer again uses the block and tackle. To forestall the effects of a bad fall the floor of the training stable is thickly littered with straw. Then the candidate is harnessed with chains and the billyband and block and tackle as he was when learning to rear, the difference being that the chains from under the belly lead between the hind instead of between the forelegs, so that the hindquarters instead of the forequarters may be raised.

HERE'S GOOD ADVICE.

O. S. Woolver, one of the best known merchants of Le Raysville, N. Y., says: "If you are ever troubled with piles, apply Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It cured me of them for good 20 years ago." Guaranteed for sores, wounds, burns or abrasions. 25¢ at C. W. Rogers drug store.

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WIVES IN KOREA.

A Humorist Who Draws a Moral From
Their Silence.

It is said that in Korea after a native woman is wedded she becomes practically speechless, says Newton Newkirk in the Boston Post. This is in conformity to custom and caste. A Korean wife does not after marriage become absolutely mute, but she does not speak unless necessity demands it. And, by the way, if none of us talked any more than necessity demanded this world would be full of large chunks of silence. The Korean wife does not chatter like a parakeet. Hot air is something in which she does not deal. Of course if the house got on fire she would mention it, or if she were to step on a snake she wouldn't try to keep the fact a secret, but she does not talk over the back fence when she is bringing in the wash or converse with her neighbor when she is washing the windows. If she did, she would lose her caste and her social rating would slump faster than a copper stock.

Probably many a brutal husband who reads these lines will sigh and say, "Ah, that my wife were a Korean!" There has an impression got abroad in this land of the free and the home of the grafter that our women are endless and tiresome talkers. In the eyes of the masses the American wife holds the long distance record as a continuous conversationalist. And upon this impression jests and jokelets are freely built. The eternally talking wife is a prolific source of inspiration for comic weeklies and the vaudeville stage. Two comedians come down front and, with their noses touching each other, engage in a rapid fire conversation:

"I got a talking machine down to my house!"

"Oh, you got a talking machine down to your house! How much did you pay for it?"

"I didn't pay nothing for it—I married it!" (Shrieks of laughter from the large and select audience.) But if the wife is voluble of speech, is her husband a sphinx? If a woman is a human phonograph, is a man a clam? Not exactly—not so that you could notice it from the road through the binoculars. Most of the husbands who like to joke about the wagging tongues of their wives are living expounders of the hot air theory. They are the chaps who have nothing to say and devote most of their time to saying it; they are full of persiflage, verbosity and prunes. When they open their mouths their tongues run away with them. Stand one of these tireless expounders of the obvious up beside a talking machine and he will make it sound like a whisper. Man, as he averages up, is full of bluff, brag and bluster, and that's worse than you can say of the average woman.

CENSUS HUMORS.

Returns of Occupations That Are Difficult to Classify.

According to an official of the census bureau at Washington, that organization is often puzzled to know how to classify the returns of occupation in cases where the enumerators have given a too literal description of a person's employment. There are two census terms to cover such cases. Occupations not included in the regular list may be entered as "O. T.," meaning "other things," or "N. G.," which stands for "not gainful." To choose between the two sometimes suggests amusing complications.

An enumerator in Iowa reported "drunkard" as the occupation of one of his men. The census bureau entered him as "N. G.," since the next column asserted this to be his occupation for twelve months in the year.

A New York enumerator who seemed to evince the inclinations of a detective reported several men in his district as "crooks," "pickpockets" and "gamblers." They were entered as "N. G.," although their occupations may have been more gainful to them than to their victims.

An Alabama man whose occupation was reported as "odd jobs" goes on the records under "O. T."—"other things."

While some of the occupations which the enumerators give are unusual, they are probably correct. A tramp was described as "loafer, not gainful, unemployed twelve months." An extra thrifty person in one instance was reported as "occupation, miser," and another "lives on savings." A New England woman whose husband was described as an "idler" gave her own occupation as "washing and wishing."—Minneapolis Journal.

Danger.

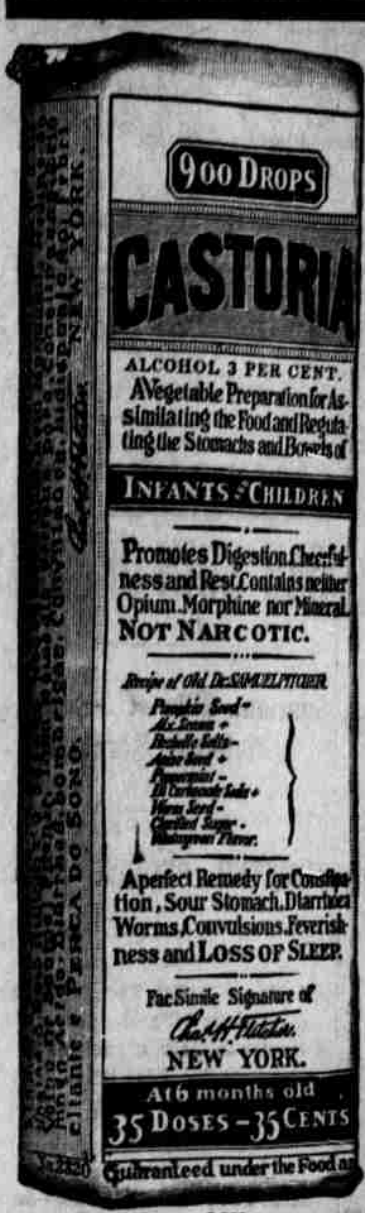
"She was even more afraid of cows than most girls, so when she spied a placid animal recumbent under a tree, peacefully chewing its cud, she at first refused to go through the pasture at all. Her husband calmed her fears to some extent, and they started by, when the cow slowly commenced to get up, hind legs first, as they always do. At this the little lady shrieked with terror and said:

"Oh, Bob, hurry, hurry. He is getting ready to spring at us."—Exchange.

Blind Justice.

Little Willie—Say, pa, why do they always have a bandage over the eyes of Justice?

Pa—Probably because the lawyers have talked the poor woman blind, my son.—Exchange.



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